

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 EUR-25 /155 W

----- 093081

R 171230Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0275

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1556

JOINT STATE/AID MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, DR

SUBJECT: FAA SECTION 32 - POLITICAL PRISONERS

1. WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC IS NOT RPT NOT SUBJECT TO SECTION 32 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT WHICH, IF APPLIED, WOULD DENY FURTHER ECONOMIC OR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ANY COUNTRY WHICH PRACTICES INTERNMENT OR IMPRISONMENT OF THAT COUNTRY'S CITIZENS FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

2. WHILE OPPOSITION GROUPS OFTEN PUBLICLY ALLEGE THAT THE GODR IS HOLDING "POLITICAL PRISONERS," IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE GODR DOES NOT AS A MATTER OF OFFICIAL POLICY ARREST DOMINICAN CITIZENS BECAUSE OF THEIR IDEOLOGY OR POLITICAL AFFILIATION. INDEED, PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS RECENTLY SUBMITTED A BILL TO THE CONGRESS TO LEGALIZE THE DOMINICAN COMMUNIST PARTY, A NUMBER OF WHOSE MEMBERS ARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED BY THE GOVERNMENT. RATHER, UNDER BALAGUER, THE GODR HAS FOLLOWED A CONSISTENT POLICY OF MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER BY ENCARCERATING EXTREME LEFTISTS, OR OTHER POLITICAL ACTIVISTS, ENGAGED IN THE COMMISSION, OR CONSPIRING TO COMMIT, ACTS OF VIOLENCE OR TERRORISM. TO THE BEST OF THE EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, THERE ARE NO RPT NO "POLITICAL PRISONERS" IN THE DR
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TODAY WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF LEFTIST EXTREMIST POLITICAL ACTION GROUPS OR WHO HAVE NOT ENGAGED IN THE PLANNING OR EXECUTION OF

SOME VIOLENT AND/OR ILLEGAL ACT AIMED AT DISTURBING PUBLIC ORDER.

3. OPPOSITION POLITICAL LEADERS HERE WHO SUPPORT CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES ARE FREE TO, AND DO, EXPRESS THEIR VIEWPOINTS PUBLICLY. THE LOCAL MEDIA, MOREOVER, FREELY REPORT THESE STATEMENTS AND PRESENT THEIR OWN OPINIONS IN EDITORIALS. AS IN MOST COUNTRIES, HOWEVER, IT IS A CRIME TO ADVOCATE, OR ATTEMPT, THE OVERTHROW OF THE CONSTITUTIONALLY-ELECTED GOVERNMENT BY VIOLENT MEANS. THE GODR MAINTAINS THAT IT IS HOLDING NO "POLITICAL PRISONERS" BUT ONLY PERSONS CHARGED WITH, OR CONVICTED OF, COMMITTING ACTS IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW, EVEN THOUGH SOME SUCH CRIMES MAY HAVE BEEN IN FURTHERANCE OF POLITICAL OBJECTIVES.
HURWITCH

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